

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 00832 011627Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 DOE-11 SOE-02 NRC-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
DOEE-00 /080 W
-----075892 011659Z /46

O R 011540Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3157
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, SW, UR
SUBJ: SWEDES UPSET OVER SOVIET MISSILE SUBMARINE IN THE BALTIC

1. SWEDISH MEDIA REPORTED MARCH 1 THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR JAKOVLEV HAD BEEN CALLED TO MFA MONDAY TO HEAR SECRETARY GENERAL LEIF LEIFLAND EXPRESS SWEDEN'S ANXIETY AND DISSATISFACTION OVER THE STATIONING OF SIX GOLF-CLASS NUCLEAR MIEEILE-CARRYING SUBMARINES IN THE BALTIC, BASED IN LIEPAJA IN LATVIA. LEIFLAND TOLD MEDIA HE DID NOT REGARD HIS MOVE AS A PROTEST OR EXPECT A REPLY FROM MOSCOW, BUT RATHER HOPED TO INITIATE A "DIALOGUE" ON THE SUBJECT.

2. SWEDES REGARD SUBMARINES AS A NEW ELEMENT INTRODUCED INTO THE EUROPEAN BALANCE. THEY REGARD IT AS DISHEARTENING THAT
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SOVIETS HAVE PLACED A "WHOLE NEW WEAPONS SYSTEM" ON SWEDEN'S BACK DOOR, WHICH CAN REACH AS FAR NORTH AS THE NORTH CAPE AND AS FAR SOUTH AS PARIS. OFFICIALS ARE WORRIED BY INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY ONE SUPERPOWER INTO THE SCANDINAVIAN AREA FOR THE FIRST TIME. THEY FIND IT HARD TO SQUARE SOVIET PROTESTATIONS OVER MAKING THE BALTIC A "SEA OF PEACE" WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SUBMARINES, AS WELL AS TO SEE CONSISTENCY

IN SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE "KEKKONEN PLAN" FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE NORDIC AREA WITH INTRODUCTION OF THESE NEW WEAPONS.

3. SWEDES ALSO FEAR THAT SOVIET MOVE WILL PROMPT A DEFENSIVE ESCALATION BY NATO INVOLVING INTRODUCTION OF SIMILAR WEAPONS OR OF ADVANCED SUBMARINE WARFARE TECHNOLOGY TO THE AREA. THEY ALSO SPECULATE THAT MISSILES MAY BE RELATED TO ONGOING SALT AND MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, AS A FORM OF PRESSURE ON WEST.

4. ACCORDING TO PRESS, SWEDES HAVE NOT TAKEN UP MATTER BEFORE LAST MONDAY WITH SOVIETS. IT MAY BECOME A SUBJECT FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION WHEN LEIFLAND LEAVES FOR A VISIT TO MOSCOW AS GUEST OF SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ZEMSKOV. LEIFLAND WAS TO HAVE LEFT MARCH 1 BUT POSTPONED HIS TRIP AFTER BEING INFORMED FEBRUARY 27 THAT ZEMSKOV HAD NOT YET RECOVERED FROM AN ILLNESS.

5. COMMENT: MFA EXPLANATION WHY SWEDES HAVE NOT REACTED OFFICIALLY UNTIL NOW DESPITE PRESENCE OF SOVIET VESSELS FOR AT LEAST A WHOLE YEAR, IS THAT GOS WANTED TO SEE WHETHER THEIR STATIONING WAS TEMPORARY OR PART OF SOME MILITARY TRAINING OR EXERCISES. ACCOUNTS OF SOVIET SUBMARINE ACTIVITY IN SVENSKA DAGBLADET FEBRUARY 28 AND MARCH 1 WERE WRITTEN BY INGEMAR LINDMARKER, FORMER PRESS COUNSELOR OF THE SWEDISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, AND A CLOSE COLLEAGUE OF LEIFLAND. LINDMARKER ALSO ATTENDED USIS COPENHAGEN DEFENSE SEMINAR FEBRUARY 24-26 AND REPORTEDLY QUERIED EMBOFFS AND NATO REPRESENTATIVES THERE ABOUT SOVIET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUBMARINES IN BALTIC. WE WOULD FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT PUBLICATION OF THE STORY OCCURRED ONLY BY "COINCIDENCE" AS OFFICIALLY STATED, ON THE SAME DAY OF LEIFLAND DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON MATTER. WE ARE ALSO AWARE OF THE FACT THAT MFA, IN ITS INTERNAL DISCUSSION ON NORTHERN SECURITY, HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY CONCERNED OVER THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET SUBMARINES IN THE BALTIC.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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